APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/455,363	12/06/1999	KAZUAKI TSUCHIYA	ASA-838	5016

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EXAMINER
FIELDS, COURTNEY D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2132	2

DATE MAILED: 07/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No. 09/455,363	Applicant(s) TSUCHIYA ET AL.
Office Action Summary	Examiner Courtney D. Fields	Art Unit 2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _____ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) _1-18_ is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:

      1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1.   Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an

application filed in Japan on 12/07/98. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed

a certified copy of the 10-347235 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2.   Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and/or (e) as being anticipated

by Liu et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,898,780. Referring to claim 1, Liu et al. discloses a

system comprising:

a plurality of I/O ports (database/server/firewall/remote computer) connected to network

terminals; means for storing information relating to a connecting state of said network

terminal (customer database/host table), said information indicating correspondence

between each of said I/O ports and a network address of said network terminal

connected to each of said I/O ports (username@userdomain); means for storing user

authentication information for each of said network addresses (remote user

authentication server); packet communicating means for transmitting and receiving

packets through said I/O ports; packet relaying means for determining a destination of

the packet received from each of said plurality of I/O ports by said packet

communicating means on a basis of the information held by said means for storing the

information relating to the connecting state of said network terminal and instructing said

packet communicating means to transmit said received packet; and user authenticating

means for determining if the user authentication information specified against said

network address is correct on a basis of the user authentication information stored in

said means for storing the authentication information, wherein said packet relaying

means operates to learn correspondence between the I/O port for receiving said

received packet and said source network address on a basis of the source network

address information contained in said received packet, request the user authentication

information for the source network terminal if the change of the content of said means

for storing the information relating to the connecting state of the network terminal is

required by said learned result, specify the user authentication information transmitted

by said source network terminal, instruct said user authenticating means to execute the

user authentication, and change the content of said means for storing the information

relating to the connecting state of said network terminal and relay said received packet

if the user is authenticated to be correct (See Column 2, lines 38-52, 59-67, Column 3,

lines 1-2, 32-67)

Referring to claims 2 and 14, Liu et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein said

network relaying device is a LAN switch (gateway) including a virtual LAN (See Column

6, lines 59-67)

Referring to claims 3,9, and 15, Liu et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein if the

user authentication indicates the user is not correct for said network address, said

packet communicating means operates to suppress the change of the content of said

means for storing the information relating to the connecting state of said network

terminal and discard the received packet having caused the change (See Column 7,

lines 8-11, 19-21, 25-32, 40-45)

Regarding to claims 4, 5, 11, and 12, Liu et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein

the user authentication information stored in said storing means contains a contact mail

address (mail exchange (MX) address) of the concerned user or administrator, and said

user authenticating means operates to create a message for indicating that a packet

having the incorrect user authentication information has been transmitted to a contact

mail address registered in said means for storing the user authentication information if

the user authentication information is determined to be incorrect for said network

address as a result of said user authentication and to instruct said packet

communicating means to transmit said message (See Column 6, lines 22-28, 33-39, 43-

48)

Referring to claims 6 and 13, Liu et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein said

network address is an IP address (See Column 4, lines 11-14, Column 5, lines 14-19)

Referring to claim 7, Liu et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein said network relaying means communicates by using a mobile IP (laptop) (See Column 2, lines 59-65)

Referring to claims 8 and 18, Liu et al. discloses a system comprising: registering user authentication information for each network address of each of said network terminals; receiving packets transmitted by a first network terminal through said I/O port; if a source network address contained in said received packet does not correspond to said receive I/O port stored in said means for storing the information relating to a connecting state of said network terminal, updating a content of said means for storing a connecting state of said network terminal so that said source network address may correspond to said receive I/O port; determining a destination of said received packet based on the information held in said means for storing the information relating to a connecting state of said network terminal and transmitting said received packet; and when updating the content of said means for storing the information relating to a connecting state of said network terminal, requesting user authentication information for said first network terminal, for doing user authentication on a basis of the user authentication information registered for each network address if said source network address does not correspond to said receive I/O port stored in said means for storing the information relating to a connecting state of said network terminal, and changing the content of said means for storing the information relating to a connecting state of said network terminal and transmitting said received packet if the correct user authentication information is obtained (See Column 5, lines 5-67, Column 6, lines 1-16, 59-67, Column 7, lines 1-6)

Referring to claim 10, Liu et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein if the correct user authentication information cannot be obtained from said first network terminal, suppressing the transfer of the packets at the I/0 port having received said packet (See Column 10, lines 23-30)

Referring to claim 16, Liu et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein when determining a destination of said received packet, if the correspondence between the destination network address of said received packet and the I/O port needs the update of the content of said means for storing the information relating to a connecting state of said network terminal, requesting user authentication information for the network terminal of said destination network address for the purpose of doing the user authentication on a basis of the user authentication information registered at each network address, and updating the content of said means for storing the information relating to a connecting state of said network terminal and transmitting said received packet if no correct user authentication information can be obtained (See Column 7, lines 52-67, Column 8, lines 1-7)

Referring to claim 17, Liu et al. discloses the claimed limitation wherein requesting the user authentication information for each network address held in said means for storing the information relating to a connecting state of said network terminal, for the purpose of periodically doing the user authentication on a basis of the user authentication information registered in each network address (See Column 8, lines 8-37, 44-59)

Conclusion

3.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tanimoto et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,075,776 discloses a VLAN control system and method.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Courtney D. Fields whose telephone number is 703-305-8293. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon - Thu 7:00 - 5:00 pm; off every Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 703-305-1830. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-746-7239 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

cdf
July 17, 2003

GILBERTO BARRON
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100